

EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020©

National profile: Luxembourg

Introduction

In the [RECaN project](#) EONS highlighted important differences in cancer nursing across Europe. The EONS Cancer Nursing Index 2020 (ECNI) was developed by the [EONS Advocacy Working Group](#) to illustrate the development and status of this profession in Europe. The index (with scores from 0-100) includes 22 items covering the following dimensions: Education and Career Development, Patient and Occupational Safety, Recognition, Working Conditions and Impact and Workforce statistics.

The Index is based on data from the following sources:

1. EONS Survey on Patient and Occupational Safety (anonymous survey, available in 9 languages) which at the time of this analysis, included over 650 responses from cancer nurses in 38 countries)
2. Interviews with leading cancer nursing experts. Nurses from 38 of 42 invited countries participated
3. Work force statistics (obtained from ec.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD)

A scoring system was developed by the EONS Advocacy Working Group to reflect the level of development for the different Index dimensions/items. For items with a variety of responses from the same country, the most frequently reported response was used. The purpose of the Index is primarily not to rank some countries as better than others, moreover to illustrate cancer nursing profiles, differences and areas in need of development. The Index could be used to aid the development of cancer nursing in each country as well as for general European progress.

Dimension/item	Maximum score	Mean score (min-max)	Luxembourg	Comment
Overall score	100	48 (16 -78)	45	
Education and career development (5 items presented below)	23	9 (0-18)	1	
Specialist education on university level	5		0	
EONS Framework recognized/supported by Ministry of Education/Health	5		0	
Master programs in cancer nursing	4		0	
Advanced cancer nursing roles established	4		1	'Planned' To obtain the highest scores (4) for this item, advanced cancer nursing roles need to be fully implemented and recognized at a national level.
Professors in cancer nursing	4		0	
Patient and occupational safety (8 items presented below)	36	18 (3-36)	24	
Safety guidelines (cytotoxic drugs) available	5		5	
Guidelines during pregnancy (cytotoxic drugs)	5		2	'Some workplaces have' To obtain the highest scores (5) for this item all responding nurses should have reported that guidelines were in place.
Pregnant and /or breastfeeding women assigned other tasks that don't involve direct contact with cytotoxic/radioactive drugs	5		2	'Some workplaces have' To obtain the highest scores (5) for this item pregnant/breast feeding women should be forbidden to perform task with risks for exposure to cytotoxic/radioactive drugs at all workplaces.

Systematic testing for occupational exposure (surface swipes)	3		0	Surface swipes were not reported by the nurses. In Luxemburg. To receive highest possible scores (3) for this item, testing should be systematically implemented at all workplaces.
Speak-up or whistle blower policy implemented for all members of staff	3		3	
Access to cytotoxic spillage kit and PPE	5		5	
Formal training before administering cytotoxic drugs	5		2	'Some workplaces have' To obtain the highest scores (5) for this item all responding Spanish nurses should have reported that formal training was requested at their workplaces.
Nurses not preparing cytotoxic drugs	5		5	
Working conditions and the impact on cancer care (4 items presented below)	20	15 (3-19)	17	
Level of adherence to European Working Time Directive (EWTB)	5		5	
Risk of negative consequences if asking for alternative duties pregnancy/breast feeding	5		2	'Sometimes' To obtain the highest score (5) for this item all responding nurses should have reported that there is no risk for negative consequences.
To what extent hospital beds are closed due to cancer nursing shortages	5		5	
To what extent cancer treatment delayed due to cancer nursing	5		5	
Recognition (4 items presented below)	18	8 (0-15)	3	
Does the country have a cancer nursing society?	5		0	
Does the country have a national cancer plan that includes nursing care?	3		3	
Does cancer centers in the country have Board positions dedicated for cancer nursing?	5		0	To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, the respondent nurses should have reported that this is always the case.
To what extent is nurse-led cancer care implemented in the country?	5		0	To obtain the highest score (5) for this item, nurse-led care should be fully implemented and recognized on a national level
Work force statistics (1 item)	3	1 (0-3)	3	
Number of practicing nurses/1000 citizens (www.europe.eu/Eurostat and OECD)	3		3	

Strengths and recommendations for improvements

The total score for Luxemburg (score 48) were at the same level as the total mean score (score 48) in the ECNI 2020. Other countries with the similar total score were Bulgaria (total score 48), Estonia and Turkey (both with total score 50) and Portugal (total score 52).

Luxemburg received maximum score in Workforce statistics. Luxemburg also received high scores in the dimension Patient and Occupational Safety. The scores in this dimension should have been even higher if safety guidelines and alternative duties to avoid cytotoxic exposure during pregnancy and breast feeding systematically implemented at all workplaces. In addition, scores would be higher if formal nursing education were mandatory before handling cytotoxic drugs and also if systematic testing for occupational exposure (surface swipes) were systematically implemented at all workplaces.

An area of concern is Education and Career Development. The results indicate that major efforts are needed to improve access to education and academic development at all levels. Consequently, advanced level nursing roles and nurse-led care are not fully implemented and recognized at national level.

If all cancer centers had a dedicated board nursing position and if Luxemburg's Minister of Education/Health would support EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework, the scores would also be higher. Finally, if Luxemburg had a national cancer nursing society, the scored would be higher. EONS would be more than happy to support any initiative to develop such society.

EONS Advocacy Working Group, December 2020